The oil marketing companies, *viz.*, IOCL, HPCL and BPCL are estimated to be suffering a total under-recovery of over Rs. 73,500 crore during the current year. ONGC/MRPL are not 'oil marketing companies', but are in upstream and refining sector respectively. They also do not market PDS kerosene and LPG.

Revenue from Domestic LPG

1590. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are again planning to increase the prices of domestic LPG;

(b) if so, what are the reasons, which force Government to increase the LPG price in very three/four months; and

(c) how much revenue Government generate every year from domestic LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal currently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Excise Duty and Customs Duty on domestic LPG has been reduced to 'Nill' *w.e.f.* 1.3.2005. As such there is no revenue generation to Central Government from this product.

Oil and Gas reserves in Bay of Bengal

1591. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge resources of oil and natural gas in the Bay of Bengal and in Mahanadi Basin in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking for proper exploration of oil and natural gas from the Bay of Bengal and Mahanadi Basin in Orissa?